



### The Cultural Table

Matthew 10:2-5; 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 9:22, Acts 10, Galatians 2:11-14  
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Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” (NIV)

1 Corinthians 9:22 .... I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. (NIV)

**We are called to reach out to all people.**

**Tables can connect people who are different.**

**We can share a table with those unlike us:**

▪ **Ethnically** (Example: Peter Eats with Cornelius)

Acts 10:9 .... Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11 He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. 12 It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. 13 Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” 14 “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” 15 The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” 16 This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.... 23 .... The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. 24 The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him.... 27 While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. 28 He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean....” 48 .... Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. (NIV)

Galatians 2:11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. 13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. 14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?” (NIV)

Both our beliefs and behaviors must demonstrate love for all people. Otherwise, we are hypocrites.

Prejudice is the denial of the gospel.

We must embrace a heavenly view of diversity.

Revelation 7:9 ...I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb... (NIV)

Revelation 21:26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. (NIV)

▪ **Politically** (Example: Jesus Picks Matthew and Simon)

Matthew 10:2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out... (NIV)

The first followers of Jesus were diverse politically. Jesus knew we do not need political uniformity to have missional unity.

Jesus’ party life messes with our party lines! (Lk. 7:36; 14:1; 19:2, 5)

Luke 6:27 “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” (NIV)

Psalms 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (NIV)

Will I allow God to prepare a table before me in the presence of my political enemies?

**1-Year Rally: The Table: We are engaging in 3 KINDS OF RELATIONSHIPS at our Tables:**

**1) Being with the CHURCH beside us.**

**2) Being with the COMMUNITIES around us.**

**3) Being with the CULTURES unlike us.**

**Table Prayer: “Your kingdom come, your will be done at this table as it is in heaven.”**